

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Mayor Pro tem Emerson Hunt	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Councilman Michael Baker
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	James Brogdon, City Attorney
Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk	Marilyn Rogers, Lieutenant
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer	
Cliff Wilbanks, Recreation Director	

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ashley Brady did the Opening Prayer, and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUEST & PRESS – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and press (Hometown TV 8).

4. APPROVE MINUTES – OCTOBER 8, 2019

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier, to approve minutes from October 8, 2019. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to approve the Special Minutes from October 23, 2019. The motion carries.

5. **2ND READING ON ORDINANCE 19-05, ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH RECYCLE FEE FOR CURBSIDE PICKUP WITHIN THE CITY OF MARION**

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve the second reading on the Ordinance to Establish a Recycling Fee for Curbside pickup within the City of Marion. The motion carried.

6. **NOVEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY**

Mayor expressed that it is always a pleasure for him to acknowledge the employee of the month. Mayor stated that **November Employee of the Month** is Miss Ainsley Sanders. Mayor stated that Miss Ainsley is doing a fantastic job and as you may know she is our City Clerk. Mayor thanks her for all she does, and he presented her with a gift.

7. **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS: CONGRESSMAN AL GREEN, DR. EMILY CLYBURN, BRENDA MURPHY, CHANDA JEFFERSON, OFFICER ARIE MICHELLE DAVIS, LATE INVESTIGATOR FARRAH TURNER, REV. MARVIN HEMINGWAY**

Mayor mentioned that Reverend Hemingway is having his Woman to Woman Conference on November 16th as he has been doing for the last couple of years, and he also stated that there is eight tickets if anyone would like to go. Mayor noted that Reverend Hemingway also had some guest speakers and he would like to get Resolution's for each of them. **A**

motion was made by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt. The motion carried.

8. BID FOR ASHLEY AVE DRAINAGE PROJECT (SCDOT C-FUNDS)

Mayor Ashley Brady mentioned a list of C-fund projects were presented and had to be ranked because he knew they had some budgetary restraints. Mayor stated that we were successful in submitting four of them, and he also stated that they submitted two hundred and eighty thousand dollars (\$280,000.00) in bids, and were able to get one hundred and forty thousand dollars (\$140,000.00) in funding. ***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve Moody Construction at thirty two thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$32,250.00).*** A brief discussion to see if anyone knew the gentleman from Moody Construction was discussed. The motion carried.

9. BID FOR WALKING TRACKS REPAIR (FEMA- HURRICANE FLORENCE)

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that the next three items that are getting approved are walking track repairs. He informed that this is not C-Fund money it is in fact FEMA reimbursement money. We have two walking tracks that were damaged by Hurricane Florence, and the bids where to put a new coat of sand clay on the tracks, and to level it out and dress it up, commented Mayor Brady. He also reported that we had a total of eight contractors that bided and the low bidder on this one was Moody Construction at sixteen thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars (\$16,950.00). ***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve Moody Construction***

at sixteen thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars (\$16,950.00). The motion carried.

10. BID FOR VOLLEYBALL COURT REPAIR (FEMA – HURRICANE FLORENCE)

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that we have a sand pit volleyball court at the Withlacoochee Park. He stated that it was put out to bid and FEMA is taking care of that because it was under water, and we receive seven bids for that as well. ***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to approve Moody Construction at seven thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars (\$7,850.00).*** The motion carries.

11. BID FOR PLAYGROUND MULCH REPLACEMENT (FEMA – HURRICANE FLORENCE)

Mayor Ashley Brady mentioned that this item is to replace the mulch at the Tennis Court and Grice's Recreation Center because it was contaminated by the flood. Mayor stated in this particular bid there were eight contractors that bided. He also stated that Martin and Son was actually the low bidder and they were actually out of Spartanburg and they came down and bided on each site and prepared there bids. Mayor acknowledged that a phone call was made to Martin and Son and explain that it may have been worth your wild to come from Spartanburg and asked Martin and Son would they still be interested in the job and they said yes they still wanted the job. ***A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve Martin and Son at twenty three thousand one hundred dollars (\$23,100.00).*** The motion carried.

12. APPROVAL TO SELL BOX TRUCK AND GYM LIGHTS

Mayor stated that we need approval to sell a couple of items such as the old box truck and gym lights. He said the old box truck engine blew up on us, and it's pieced together here and there. The decision was not to invest money in the truck but to build a box that we can set in one of our flatbed trucks so we can lift it off when we need it and put it back on when we need it without having insurance and everything else to deal with it said the Mayor. He also said that in talking to Mr. Randy and Mr. Winky it's basically scrap. Mayor mentioned that in talking with the fellas that they don't think we will get much out of it but we can put it on govdeals and see what we can get out of it. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to sell the box truck and the gym lights.*** The motion carried.

13. **MARION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT-MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SHELTERING AND MASS CARE FACILITIES**

Mayor stated that basically what item number thirteen is the district approached us and asked if there is a mass event at one of their locations where they needed to get all the students out of the school and into a safe environment could they use one of our facilities. Mayor reported that Marion County Schools drafted proposal of a five year agreement to use the CD Joyner in the event of a mass incident. He said they will be responsible as to how they get to the facility and all the City would have to do would be to make sure the bathrooms work, the building is open, lights, and heat and air are on. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to approve for the Mayor and Administrator to sign the School District Memorandum of***

Understanding Sheltering and Mass Care Facilities as presented. A brief discussion was held, the motion carried.

14. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL AND CITY OF MARION

Mayor Ashley Brady started out by saying that South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control would like to enter into an agreement for us in case of a pandemic for example everyone needed the swine flu vaccination or whatever the incident maybe that they would need to get everyone at one time. They would like to use the Shannon Wilkerson Gym because it had the multipurpose flooring, and it would be a five year agreement as well stated the Mayor. A brief discussion was made about the A.C. Tollison Gym needing to be changed in the request. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to approve the Memorandum Agreement between Department of Health and Environmental Control and the City of Marion to allow them to use the Shannon Wilkerson Gym for a five year period.*** The motion carried.

15. REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL-LARRY D. SMITH -18 WHEELER TRUCKS, MANNING ST.

Mayor Ashley Brady gave a brief summary on behalf of Mr. Larry Smith. He started out by mentioning that we were having some problems with some and traffic while leaving the old Heritage property. We went to DOT and we asked if they could put the signs up and after six months or so DOT finally came back and said yes we can put up the signs and we did according to the

Mayor. He also stated that we went to all the trucks that were parked and put flyers on the windows and let the drivers know that they cannot be coming down that (Manning St.) or Main Street anymore and that they would have to turn out and go a different route, and so Mayor further mentioned that he has had a conversation with Chief Tony Flowers about beefing up their patrol in that area to catch and write tickets.

16. REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL-CYNTHIA FORD-YOUTH LEADERSHIP PRESENTATION

Ms. Cynthia Ford is currently the Marion County Manager with DJJ, and she serves part-time with the Military but she is not here for either of the two. She has a project that is dear to her heart and it's called Beyond Empowerment LLC and Beyond Empowerment Foundation. She also mentioned that part of that program is geared toward young people between the ages of fourteen and eighteen. Miss Ford went on to say that right now they have partnered with Clemson Extension to host the first semester. She also expressed that this program consists of a nine week curriculum designed to maximize, recognize, and make it happen. She went on to give the specifics that are involved in making this program happen for the participant's breaking it down from week to week. The purpose of Miss Ford coming to the Council meeting was to invite the Public Official's to the graduation of the participants on December 2, 2019 at the Opera House from Six o'clock to seven o'clock p.m.

17. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Alan Ammons stated that we were fortunate enough to get items one through four funded totaling one hundred forty thousand dollars

(\$140,000.00). Mr. Ammons stated that we probably will go back March or April to get money to fund the other two projects. Mr. Ammons stated that as we can see tonight with all the bods we came in the budget about twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) with that project, and all that money goes back in the pot so when we go back and ask for it will be that much for us to get.

Mr. Ammons also spoke on the 800 radio system, and reminded everyone that it was one of the Capitol Sales Tax Projects. He also mentioned that the day after the Council meeting at ten o'clock the Mayor and Himself went to a meeting last Thursday night from the Council Meeting and demonstrated the new system, and he stated that it was just like having a conversation right in the Council Chamber. Mr. Ammons stated that the old system will be cut off and the new system will be cut on, and expressed that four of the sites are up and running until then they have worked out an agreement with Florence County to piggy back off their tower until they get that site up and running in the Gresham area.

18. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Brogdon do not have a legal update at this time.

19. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady: Mayor Brady pointed out for the tenth year we are going to do the Christmas food boxes, and this a great thing that we do for the City. He also stated that if anyone is inclined to make a contribution please give us a check for that, and we work with a couple different organizations and deliver those items out and if anyone would like to contribute that would be great. Our City Employee Luncheon will be on

December 11th at the Gym, and it's always a great lunch so if you could put on your calendar to be there at our employee's luncheon that would be fantastic, reported the Mayor. He also informed everyone that in the Town of Nichols they are having their Grand Opening for their new Fire Department the Thursday after the Council Meeting.

Hurricane Matthew caught us all off guard, when Hurricane Florence came we were kind of prepared and we kind of knew what we were doing, and the State sent a lot of resources here for rescue, affirmed the Mayor. We have our new vacuum truck and cleaning storm drains and so we are doing what we can to be for the next high water event according to the Mayor. Mayor also informed everyone that last month he spoke briefly about working with Mrs. Ann Burroughs and the Housing Authority on cleaning up the canal being Strawberry Street and on November 20th the track hoe and the dump truck will be delivered, they are leasing the equipment and we are going to put our operators on it, and then she will come back with a fence. So the City of Marion has been participating in what's called a 1033 program which is a government program that we can get used surplus equipment; Mayor stated, that we have been paying to be a member of this program for the last ten years and have not really seen no fruits of our membership, and when Chief Flowers came aboard Mayor stated to him that we really need to be working this program. Mayor also said that about two or three months ago they went up to Virginia looking for some high water rescue vehicles and when they got there the vehicles were in very poor condition and came back and worked on it some more and in doing so at Fort Bragg they found a high water rescue vehicle so when we do have

the next flooding event, not only that but we are taking preventatives by cleaning out our storm drains, and will have a vehicle that we can go into the Public Housing to extract our Citizens and we can use it for anything we want to but that truck is specifically designed for high water rescue. Mayor also pointed out that when we came in if we noticed that parked right in front of the Fire Station is a Humvee ambulance type set up, and Mayor said that another one will be picked up the week of the Council meeting free of charge. Mayor expressed that we still have to patrol during high waters but what we are finding out is that water is getting in the vehicles and tearing up our computers and stuff in the inside with the Humvee's we can still patrol. Mayor stated that the next question would be where are we going to keep it, and he stated that we are the new owners of the Pepsi Cola Poplar building since we have access to it we don't want it in the weather so we have took it and parked it there. Mayor stated that as we saw with Hurricane Dorian it looked like it was going to hit towards Charleston, so guess what all the resources that we got from Florence they are going to go where the storm damages are going to be made. Mayor said that so all those resources were positioned more closer to Charleston and so if we had something bad we can't wait for cavalry to come we have to be cavalry, and so that is why we are getting these trucks and he applauded Chief Flowers and the gentlemen down that are helping get these trucks. Several Months ago, said the Mayor we applied for a Hometown Economic grant through the Municipal Association and we are the winner of the façade grant for twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) and will use the conduit of HMRA to use the money for the downtown renovations with this

competitive grant. Mayor also said that the parade will be on December the 8th and it will be done a little different this year. Parade will be Sunday afternoon prior to the Christmas tree lighting, emphasized the Mayor. The parade is set for four o'clock, and will fall straight in leading to the Christmas tree lighting in front of the Court House followed by the Fireworks and trying to condense everything into one day. Over on Marshall St. the guys are getting in there and cleaning around the trees, making that area look a little more presentable stated the Mayor. He also stated that down on Withlacoochee Park there were some trees that were hanging, and some may think why does that matter? Mayor stated that if we were on a tractor and getting hit in the head it would matter to get those trees cut.

Mayor Brady stated that the Friday before the Council meeting it was a great Veteran's Day program. Mayor thanks Councilwoman Tassie Lewis for getting Mr. Christopher for the program, he's sure everyone had a great day at the event. Mayor would like to get a motion since Mr. Christopher Shelvin is a Marion native and does a fantastic job with the Fox84 initiative, spoke and he's a Veteran. Mayor would like to maybe make a hundred dollar (\$100.00) contribution to his Fox84 initiative. ***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to make a hundred dollar (\$100.00) contribution to Mr. Christopher Shelvin Fox84 initiative.*** The motion carries.

Councilman Michael Baker: Councilman Michael Baker mentioned to Mayor Brady and asked him did he want to mention the clean up? Mayor

Brady elaborated on Mr. Rich Seagroves and Tyler Seagroves being the individuals that own the property west Marion. Mayor mentioned also that Mr. Britts is a good equipment operator a we can see from his work at Catfish Creek and ditches and all our stormwater. Mayor stated what we have done is come up with a resolution thanking him for all he has done and Mayor said he has called him to see if they could be at the Council meeting and they had conflicts so Mayor said that we will defer it until next month.

Councilman Joseph Frazier: Councilman said that he is looking at the notice of February 19th and it's supposed to be twenty-twenty (2020). Councilman Frazier stated that he went to the County Council meeting and they came out with new voting machines, and on the twenty-third(23rd) they will be at the Opera House to demonstrate those voting machines. Mayor Brady elaborated on the voting machines and stated that it has a key pad and before it's confirmed it will print out a paper copy of what you voted. Council had a brief discussion further more about the voting machines. Councilman Frazier mentioned that as slow as we drive in the parade the kids are looking for candy, and it stated that it looks like we could throw some out to the curb. Mayor stated that it still goes back to the liability and a child that's not looking and get hit in the eye with a piece of candy, or some child steps out and gets hurt, it's just too much of a liability. Councilwoman Tassie stated that we are allowed to hand them if they are in a bag or something. A brief discussion was discussed about the giving of candy by Council. Councilman Frazier stated that last time he talked about

the place down there and ain't nothing happened. Administrator Ammons stated that he talked to Mr. Sanders and he is in that business with his nephew and stated that he did look at the ordinance and that is in that commercial and it's kind of just like Blanton's and we don't require that (Councilman Frazier inserted that they can put up a fence or something to camouflage it) we only require that in a residential. Mr. Ammons stated that we would have to look at the ordinance and then we would have to address Blanton's, Thomas Supply and all the people that display outdoor stuff like pine straw, etc. A brief discussion was then made concerning the addressing of outdoor displays and commercial property were further discussed.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson: Councilman Ronald Atkinson stated that he knows it gets dark earlier and his concern is street lights and them being off. Mayor stated that if he can ride in the evening and take a picture of it then Miss Ainsley can get them reported for you.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis: Councilwoman Tassie Lewis stated that she would like to thank everybody for encouragement and sacrifice to our Veteran's and thank you to Ms. Ford for your passion and they have worked together in the past and she hopes that we can empower the children together. The coat give away Rise Above It All took place the Saturday after the Council meeting will have to be new and if a monetary donation would like to be given please do not hesitate to stop by City Hall and everyone there can accept the donation.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt: Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt mentioned that he would like to mention again that the Veteran's Day was tremendous program. Mayor Pro Tem stated that he would like to thank the Mayor, Alan, and everyone. He also stated that when Councilwoman stated that this needed to reflect and think we all got together at the last meeting and talked about it and brought it together really quickly. Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt wanted to thank everyone at large for all that has been done and transpired due to hard work and diligence.

20. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, ***A motion was made to adjourn by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier.*** The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ashley Brady

Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk
Taped: November 12, 2019